42 (4)

By the King.

¶ A Proclamation for reforming ſundry inconueniences touching the Coynes of this Realme.

ALbeit by ſundry Proclamations heretofore publiſhed with the aduice of Our Priuie Councell, we haue ſufficiently manifeſted Our care and conſtant deſire to meete with ſuch inconueniences, as either diminiſh the plenty, or impaire the iuſt value of the Coynes of this Our Realme; yet experience hath made it euident, that neither the ſeuerity of Our Lawes, nor ſtrictneſſe of Our Proclamations haue effected that good, which in Our Princely care and prouidence of the publique Weale, wee haue ſo much aymed at, but againſt all Our endeuour and prouiſion, farre greater quantities of light Gold, then in any former age hath been knowen, are daply and continually vttered, to the great deceit of Our Subiects; and not onely ſo, but the Waightieſt of our Coyne, being culled out and ſorted, is tranſported into forraine parts, to the impouerifhing of this Our Realme. And therfore finding theſe euils, (grounded vpon hope of gaine) to breake through all other politique Conſtitutions, wee haue reſolued, in purſuit of our Lawes and Proclamations againſt thoſe abuſes, to make triall, if by propoſall of benefit to ſuch as ſhall further our intention, though With Our owne apparant loſſe, wee may aduance the plentie and abundance of Coyne within Our Realmes: And therfore finding that the profit of Our coinage (though already abated beneath the Rates of former times) doth at this preſent amount to the ſumme of twenty ſixe ſhillings foure pence for euery pound Waight of Gold coyned at Our Mint, beſides ſome gaine by ſharing at the ſame Mint; wee haue giuen order, that for and during the ſpace of one yeere now next enſuing, the ſame bee reduced to the ſumme of fifteene ſhillings onely, including therein alſo the gaine by ſharing. And to the intent all Our louing Subiects, that ſhall bee occaſioned to bring any Gold to bee coyned at Our Mint, may haue a iuſt and full returne thereof, without diminution; wee doe hereby publiſh and declare, and it is Our expreſſe Will and pleaſure, that Our Officers of Our Mint ſhall from henceforth, according to the ancient Law and Cuſtome of this Our Realme (ratified by authoritie of Parliament in the fiue and twentieth yeere of the Reigne of Our moſt Noble Progenitor King Edward the third, and in the ninth yeere of the Reigne of King Henry the fift) receiue Gold and Siluer into Our Mint by weight, and ſhall deliuer out the Moneys thereof, when it ſhall be made, by weight or by number, at the election of him which ſhal receiue the ſame without delay or difficultie.

And whereas, for the reducing of Our Gold coyne to the same price & value which it bare in forreine parts, whereby the transportation thereof might more easily be preuented, we did heretofore aduance the same gold Coine in euery twentie Shillings, two Shillings, and according to that proportion in greater or lesser pieces of Gold, by which meanes the same Coines are not found so vsefull for Our Subiects, both by the vnaptnesse for tale, occasioning fractions and perplexities in reckonings, and by the inequality of the summe, causing our Subiects in some disbursements of Gold, to deliuer more then otherwise they would, if the Coine were of an euen proportion; WE haue thought meete hereafter to forbeare the stamping of any more of those vnequall Coines, and to reduce Our Moneys hereafter to bee made vnto the ancient values of Coine in vse before the said aduancement; intending neuertheless, and Our expresse will and pleasure is, That such as are already coyned, shall continue of the same value as they be at this present: And therefore for the time to come, to remoue such inequalitie in Coynes, we haue resolued of certaine Coynes of Gold, which together with those already coyned, we will and ordaine to be from henceforth currant within these Our Kingdomes of Great Brittaine, Ireland, and the rest of Our Dominions, (that is to say) One piece of fine Angel gold, of the value of thirtie Shillings sterling, stamped on the one side with Our picture crowned, and in Parliament robes, sitting in a Chaire, and at the feete a Portcullis, with Our stile, IACOBVS D. G. MAG. BRIT. FRAN. & HIB. REX: And on the other side, Our Armes, with a crosse flory, and the number of XXX. A circle about the Escutchion of Armes, charged with Flower-deluces, Lyons, and Roses, with this inscription in an outer circle, A DN̄O FACTVM ISTVD, ET EST MIRAB. IN OCVLIS NR̄IS. Another piece of fine Angel Gold, of the value of Fifteene Shillings, stamped on the one side with a Lyon crowned, holding a scepter in the one paw, and Our Escutchion of Armes in the other, marked with the number XV. with Our stile afore-mentioned, and on the other side with a spur-rowell, and in the midst thereof a Rose, and without the points of the rowell Flower-deluces, Lyons, and Crownes, with the fore-mentioned inscription about, A Dn̄o factum istud, & est mirab. in oculis nostris. One other piece of fine Angel Golde of the value of ten Shillings, stamped on the one side with the picture of an Angel striking a Serpent, with the number of X. and Our stile aforesaid round about, and on the other side with a Shippe with one saile displayed, with Our Armes thereon, and with the like inscription, A Dn̄o factum istud, & est mirab. in oculis nostris. One other piece of Crowne Gold of the value of twentie Shillings, stamped on the one side, with our picture Crowned with a Laurell, with the number of XX. and Our stile afore-mentioned round about, and on the other side our Armes crowned, with this inscription about, Faciam eos in gentem vnam. One other piece of Crowne Gold of the value of ten Shillings, stamped with our Picture and stile last mentioned, and the number of X. on the one side, and on the other side our Armes Crowned, with this inscription about, Henricus Rosas, Regna Iacobus. And one other piece of crowne Gold of the value of fiue Shillings, stamped on the one side with our Picture and stile last mentioned, and the number of V. and on the other side with the like stampe as the ten Shillings piece.

And because the abuse of impairing Our Gold Coyne is growne more frequent then heretofore, by reason the deliuering and receiuing the same by waight (a matter agreeable both to ancient and moderne Lawes and Proclamations) hath bene of late greatly neglected, whereby offenders haue had more opportunitie and encouragement to clip, wash, and diminish the same Coynes: Wee haue therefore thought good to quicken the said Lawes, and former Procla-

niations; And therefore according to the president of a Proclamation made in the Nine and twentieth yeere of the raigne of Our late deare sister Queene Elizabeth, which continued in force till her decease, And of the like Proclamation since published by Us, in the ninth yeere of our raigne of England, we doe hereby declare, That after the first day of September next, it shall be free and lawfull for all and every Our louing Subiects, to refuse in any payments, all pieces of Gold heretofore Coyned, which shalbe lighter then according to the Remedies or Abatements prescribed by the aforesaid Proclamation, made in the ninth yeere of Our raigne, That is to say,

In euery piece of golde current for	33. shillings,	The remedie and abatement shall not exceede	4. graines and a halfe.
	22. shillings,		3. graines.
	15. shillings 6. pence,		2. graines and a halfe.
	11. shillings,		2. graines.
	5. shillings 6. pence,		1. graine.
	2. shillings 9. pence.		Halfe a graine.

And all other pieces of Golde hereafter to be coyned, which shall be lighter then according to the remedies or abatements hereafter ensuing, (that is to say)

In euery newe piece of golde current for	30. shillings,	The remedie and abatement shall not exceede	3. graines.
	20. shillings,		2. graines.
	15. shillings,		1. graine and a halfe.
	10. shillings,		1. graine.
	5. shillings,		Halfe a graine.

And to the intent all our louing Subiects in all parts of this our Realme may haue good and iust weights for the true weighing of all the said Coynes of Gold, and true and vpright graines & halfe graines for the remedies & abatements aforesaid, we haue commanded the Master of our Mint within our Tower of London now being, (the appointment thereof, being proper & peculiar to Us onely) to prepare and make ready before the said first day of September next a sufficient number of vpright Balances and true Weights, aswell of euery seuerall peece of Gold lawfully current in this our Realme, as of the sayd remedies and abatements, to bee ready to deliuer at reasonable prices, to bee rated by our Commissioners for our Treasurie, or Treasurer of England for the time being, to all such our Subiects as shall require the same; And Our will and pleasure is, That the chiefe Officers in all our Cities, Boroughs & Townes corporate of this our Realme of England, and Principalitie of Wales, shall before the last day of the said moneth of September next, prouide to haue one payre of the said Weights sufficient, at the hands of the said Master of our Mint, within euery such City, Borough, and Towne corporate, well and safely to be kept, for tryall of the weight of the said Coynes, as any occasion shall bee. And wee straitly forbid all our Subiects and others whatsoeuer, to haue or vse any other weights then as aforesaid for the said Coynes of Gold, remedies, or abatements, or any of them.

Giuen at Abthorpe the 31. day of Iuly, in the seuenteenth yeere of Our Reigne of Great Britaine, France, and Ireland.

God saue the King.

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